

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph spanning page 23, line 20 through page 23, line 24 as follows:

The present invention contemplates the association of a microparticle with a fluorescent label via any means. However, in a preferred embodiment, labels are associated with the microparticle using a method that allows beads to be labeled with a compound to give varying fluorescence intensities. More preferably, the ~~microparticles~~ labels are attached to the surface of the microparticle (external dyeing).